

### **Annual Report of FAR Activities**

As set forth in the “Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne Faculty Athletics Representative Position Description” this is the annual report of the activities of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) for the Academic year 2017-2018.

#### Conferences Attended:

**Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA) Annual Conference.** November 3-5, 2017. Atlanta, Georgia. This conference is an annual meeting of all Faculty Athletic Representatives. The meeting includes training, education, and information for FAR’s.

**National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Accelerating Academic Success Program Annual Conference.** July 26-29, 2017. New Orleans, Louisiana. This meeting is for all FAR’s as well as Athletic Directors, University Presidents, and other administrators connected to athletics. There is training and education as well as meetings.

#### Athletic Travel:

**Summit League Basketball Championships 2018.** March 2-6. Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This is the annual basketball tournament for our league. As part of the event there are administrative meetings that the FAR attends.

#### Committee Work:

The following are committees that I belong to or advise and attend the regular meetings of:

**Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT).** This meeting is held monthly. SALT has student-athlete representatives from each of the athletics teams. In the meeting they coordinate athletic and service events as well as matters of importance to student-athletes. They also discuss and seek advice on academic matters from the FAR.

**Student Athlete Services (S-AS).** This committee holds bi-weekly meetings to coordinate student-athlete issues and includes representatives from the Mastodon Academic Performance Center, The Registrar’s Office, Financial Aid, and the Compliance office.

**Compliance Committee.** This committee is intended to meet monthly but has had limited meetings this academic year which I did attend. The committee is composed of representatives from different areas of campus that affect student athletes (registrar, bursar, compliance, athletics, student affairs, financial aid, etc). The group coordinates to make sure there are no compliance issues with student athletes.

**Faculty Senate Mastodon Athletics Advisory Sub-Committee.** I am the chair of this committee. The committee is a sub-committee of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Sub-Committee and meets monthly. Its purpose can be found in the Senate Bylaws section 5.3.4.3.2.

#### Work with Student Athletes:

There are several situations where I work directly with student-athletes. To protect their anonymity I will use generalities and avoid names.

**Student-Athlete Missed Class Worksheets.** These worksheets are given to student-athletes at the beginning of each semester. The worksheets have the days of class that the student will have to miss for athletic events that are officially sanctioned by the university. I send an email to professors with student athletes in their classes explaining how the worksheets work, encouraging the faculty to work with the student athletes, and inviting faculty to contact me with questions. The student-athletes then work with the faculty member to come to an agreement and the faculty member signs the form. On occasion there is a conflict between a faculty member and a student-athlete regarding what can and cannot be missed as well as how it can be made-up. When these conflicts occur I am asked to intervene and come up with a solution that is acceptable for both parties. In the Spring Semester there were 4 such instances and 3 more in the Fall 2017 semester. In each case I worked with both sides to help mediate the situation and come to a resolution. Overall the majority of faculty work with the student athletes and are willing to help them compete and do well academically.

**Advising.** The student athletes have academic advisors in athletics as well as in their major areas so I do not directly advise them for their majors and coursework. As the FAR they occasionally come to me for advice on interacting with faculty and for career advice.

**Appeals.** If a student-athlete has a conflict with a coach or someone in the athletic department and wishes to appeal a decision that has been made, a committee is formed with members from the Athletics Advisory Sub-committee. There were no appeals this academic year.

#### Work with the Compliance Department:

The compliance department serves to ensure that all NCAA and legal rules are followed by the athletics department and that student-athletes stay within the rules to stay academically eligible. If there are violations the compliance department reports them and works through any consequences. I work with compliance to review and comment on any legislative changes and to monitor athletic department processes and practices. In this capacity I meet regularly with the compliance director Wendy Wilson at the beginning of the academic year and now Rachel Newsted. We review the academic eligibility of student athletes and make sure that there are no violations, or that if there are violations they are properly reported. To my knowledge there have been no violations this semester.

#### Work with the Athletics Department:

I meet regularly (at least 1 time per month) with the Athletic Director, Kelley Hartley Hutton, to consult on academic issues and ensure that there is a faculty voice in athletics decisions. The Athletic Director is very open to input and actively seeks ways to improve communication between athletics and academics.

The Athletics Department also asked me to participate on the **Faculty Senate Athletics Working Group** on their behalf. In this capacity I attended all of the Working Group meetings, prepared reports, and read numerous reports including the final report submitted to the faculty senate.

I also have the opportunity to work with the coaches of the different teams. I have attended the Coaches Meetings and I have met with a many of the coaches. In these meetings we have discussed practice schedules, game schedules, and missed class worksheets. All of the coaches that I have met with actively promote academic excellence on their teams. I also began attending practices for the teams this spring semester. So far I have been to see the baseball team and the men's and women's basketball team.

As part of my duties I am made aware of any concussions. I am notified by the athletic trainers. I help ensure that faculty in the classes of the affected student-athlete are aware of the injury and of the status of the student. There have been several injuries and concussions that affected academic performance over the last academic year. In all cases all proper protocols were followed. The student was not allowed to compete until completely cleared by the proper medical professional.

I also work closely with the Mastodon Academic Performance Center (MAP). I am notified of any academic problems or challenges with student-athletes. We also meet regularly to review student eligibility and discuss future plans for students. As part of the process of monitoring eligibility, each day I (as well as the employees of the MAP) receive a report of the enrollment and status of student-athletes. Individually we review the report and compare it to the team rosters to make sure that all student-athletes remain eligible. As FAR I work to make sure that university academic policies are being followed and that advising policies are in the best academic interests of the students. The employees of the MAP are very open to my comments and actively seek my input for policies and procedures as well as day to day issues.

I also participate in the interview and hiring process for new coaches and athletic academic personnel. There were several replacement hires this academic year. In each case I participated in the interview process and gave feedback on the candidates.

#### Athletics Events:

As the FAR it is recommended that I attend a few athletics events each semester to make sure that the student-athlete experience is a positive one. I have attended numerous athletics events this academic year. Including events for Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Women's Softball, and Men's Baseball.

#### Chancellor:

Part of my duties are to meet with the chancellor to discuss the academic progress of student-athletes and give input into issues that affect athletics and academics. I have met with the past and present chancellor multiple times in the last academic year. I currently meet with chancellor Elsenbaumer once per month.